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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 017661/0168

- Applicant: Ryuhei FUJIWARA

Title: SERVICE IDENTIFICATION TAG AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM USING THE SAME

Application No.: 09/684,334

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Examiner: G. Barron, Jr.

Technology Center 2100

Art Unit: 2132

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56 and 37 CFR §1.97**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

MR 17 2004

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-SB08 is a list of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any documents which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits (first scenario). If that is not the case, such as in a second scenario in which a first Office Action on the merits has been mailed before the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement, then either a certification or fee is required, and a certification is provided below. If neither of the first or second scenarios is the case, such as if a final Office Action or a notice of allowance has been mailed by the PTO (third scenario), then both a certification and fee are required, and in that case a certification is provided below and also the PTO is authorized to obtain the necessary fee to have the instant IDS considered, from Foley & Lardner Deposit Account #19-0741.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

A translation of a portion of a Japanese Office Action that issued December 16, 2003 with respect to a counterpart Japanese patent application is provided below.

"Note

(For a list of the cited literature, see the List of Cited Literature.)

Claims: 1 through 3
Cited Literature: 1, 2, 3

Remarks

Described in Cited Literature 1 is the fact that in every printing of a business card, the postal codes that are the local address of the addressee are printed in barcode, and the company name, etc. of the addressee are printed graphically. Then, the fact that a registered service mark is used as the graphic to express the aforementioned company name, etc. of the addressee could be easily conceived by a person skilled in the art.

Moreover, described in Fig. 4 of Cited Literature 2 is a discount coupon printed with a graphic pattern and a barcode on a central backing material.

Described in Cited Literature 3 is a voucher that has a display unit 2, which comprises a code that can identify a person, and a code information generation means that a mechanism can identify, and these are used to confirm the person in question.

Specifically, the inventions related the aforementioned claims of the present application have no unique difference from what is described in these references.

Claims: 4, 5

Cited Literature: 4, 5

Remarks

Described in Cited Literature 4 (left column line 49 through right column line 23 of page 4) is the fact that information is obtained by reading from printed matter a barcode equivalent to a URL and accessing the corresponding home page by using the URL that said barcode indicates.

Then, we find that a person skilled in the art could easily conceive of substituting the fact that a URL is directly obtained from a barcode on printed matter with the fact that the corresponding said URL is obtained from a server having a table that correlates identification information and URLs as described in Cited Literature 5.

Further, the fact that graphic information combined with barcodes is printed on printed matter is well known as described in Cited Literature 1 through 3.

Claims: 6, 7

Cited Literature: 4, 5, 1

Remarks

The graphic printed in Cited Literature 1 expresses the information of the addressee in question, and considering that the fact that confirming the person in question by accessing a Web server is a common means as is described in Cited Literature 5, a person skilled in the art could easily conceive of the fact that the person in question is confirmed using said graphic.

2. The inventions related to the following claims of this application are the same as the inventions described in the specifications or diagrams that were initially appended to the application form of the following patent for which a patent was applied prior to the date of the present application, and for which the disclosure appeared after the submission of the present application. Moreover, because the inventor of the present application is not the same party as that which made the aforementioned invention related to the patent application prior to the present application, and because, at the time of this application, the applicant is not the same as the applicant that submitted the aforementioned patent application, a patent cannot be received pursuant to the stipulations of Article 29, Paragraph 2 of the Japan Patent Law.

Note

(For a list of the cited literature, see the List of Cited Literature.)

Claims: 4, 5

Cited Literature: 6

Remarks

Described in the Japanese unexamined patent publication of aforementioned prior application 6, for example on page 8 left column lines 1 through 30 and page 9 right column lines 17 through 44, is the fact that an object ID is printed in barcode on a product, said object ID read by a user terminal is sent to a search server, the URL corresponding to the said object ID is sent by the search server to the user terminal, and the user terminal accesses a www server based on said URL.

Then, printing graphic information combined with a barcode on printed matter is a common means as described, for example, in Cited Literature 1 through 3, and we find no new effect presented

by adding said common means, and therefore the above point is nothing more than a minor difference in the specific means for resolving the problem.

List of Cited Literature

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H08-310167
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H08-132768
3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H11-277961
4. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H09-204389
5. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H11-066053
6. Japanese Patent Application H11-282644 (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2001-101232)

Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results

Fields searched - IPC 7th Ed. - G06F 13/00
B42D 15/00

Prior Art Literature

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H11-259491
Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2000-172802

This Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results does not constitute a reason for rejection."

Applicant's statements regarding the Japanese Office Action are based on a partial translation that Applicant's representative obtained. These statements should in no way be considered as an agreement by Applicant with, or an admission of, which is asserted in the Japanese Office Action.

Applicant respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form-SB08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

March 12, 2004
Date

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